

T r a n s l a t i o n of an article published in the Berner Nachrichten, Friday, September 29, 1978, Muensingen (Canton Bern), Switzerland (page 48):

# A n c e s t o r s C a m e O u t o f D i e m t i g C a n y o n by Juerg Mosimann

## Americans from Bern (USA) received in Bernese State House

For the last nine days 36 American tourists, including ten couples with their children, have been travelling back and forth throughout the Bernese region. The main focus of their interest has been the Diemtig Canyon. No wonder -- their ancestors came from there. About 1860 Johannes Kunz-Knutti emigrated from Zwischenflueh in Diemtig Canyon and settled in the United States of America where in the state of Idaho he founded the "city" of Bern (not to be confused with New Berne), which today has a population of approximately 150 inhabitants. Yesterday, Thursday, the "nostalgic Bernese" from America were received in the Bernese State House by Dr. Martin Josi, the Chancellor.

The American guests from Bern (USA) were deeply moved shortly after their arrival in Switzerland when they visited the house in which the founder of their home town, Johannes Kunz-Knutti, was born in Diemtig Canyon. "It is very special to see the place where he lived before he immigrated to the States," commented many of the admiring visitors. Just as their ancestors in Diemtig Canyon did, most of the descendants in Bern (USA) make a living through agriculture. One of them who has been studying the history of the Confederation at the University of Bern (Switzerland) has made the effort during his long sojourn in the capital city to search the corners of the old archives and as a result has found much interesting historical material and even photographs concerning the onetime emigrants and their descendants. It therefore came as a surprise to the vacationers that he could show them pictures and point out their great-great-great-grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts or uncles. Mrs. Hilda Kunz-Stoor proudly told the "Berner Nachrichten:" "I presently have 183 members of my immediate family. That includes my own 13 children." However, on Monday this number raised to 184. For on that day a member of her family in the USA gave birth to a healthy boy.

## "Summit Meeting" USA - USSR

Furthermore, a rare summit meeting was held in the mountain lodge "Nüegg" high above Diemtig Canyon last week. There the Americans from Bern (USA) met the descendants of Jakob Kunz-Klossner and David Kunz-Wiedmer, brothers who immigrated to the Soviet Union in the mid-18th century, and cousins of Johannes Kunz-Knutti who immigrated to the USA. Tomorrow, Saturday, the American guests will leave Switzerland to return to Bern (USA), and, as they assured the "Berner Nachrichten," they take with them the best impressions from the Canton of Bern to their same-named home.

## Caption under the accompanying photograph:

Full of enthusiasm the American tourists had the book about Canton Bern which they received as a gift autographed by Dr. Martin Josi (left), the Chancellor. On the right in the picture, Mrs. Hilda Knutti-Stoor, who during her visit in Switzerland received the news of the birth of another descendant.